

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 15890 01 OF 02 261737Z

ACTION CSC-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 PER-05 H-02 PM-05

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R 261731Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1761

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15890

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SUBJECT: VETERANS BENEFITS

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THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO
REFTEL:

1. GERMAN LEGISLATION DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN
A) CONSCRIPTS, I.E., SOLDIERS PERFORMING COM-
PULSORY MILITARY SERVICE OF 15 MONTHS;
B) VOLUNTEERS OR SOLDIERS WITH COMMITMENTS FOR
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PAGE 02 BONN 15890 01 OF 02 261737Z

MILITARY SERVICE RANKING BETWEEN 2 AND 15
YEARS (SOLDATEN AUF ZEIT - SAZ); THIS GROUP IN-
CLUDES MOSTLY NCO'S.

C) PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS PERFORMING MILITARY SER-
VICE UNTIL RETIREMENT.

2. THE LAW ON THE PROTECTION OF JOBS (ARBEITSPLATZ-

SCHUTZGESETZ STATES THAT CONSCRIPTEEES HAVE A LEGAL CLAIM TO REINSTATEMENT IN THEIR OLD OR A SIMILAR JOB WITH THEIR PREVIOUS EMPLOYER AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR 15-MONTHS COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE; I.E., THE EMPLOYMENT IS "SUSPENDED" FOR THE DURATION OF THE 15-MONTHS COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE. EFFORTS ARE NOW BEING MADE TO EXTEND THIS REGULATION ALSO TO VOLUNTEERS WITH A SERVICE COMMITMENT OF 2 YEARS.

3. A SYSTEM OF PREFERENCE IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT FOR VETERANS IS REGULATED UNDER THE LAW ON SOLDIERS' BENEFITS (SOLDATENVERSORGUNGSGESETZ), BUT RESTRICTED TO VOLUNTEERS WITH SERVICE COMMITMENTS OF AT LEAST 12 UP TO 15 YEARS. SOLDIERS IN THESE CATEGORIES (MOSTLY NCO'S) MAY APPLY FOR A "VOUCHER OF INTEGRATION.' (EINGLIEDERUNGSSCHEIN) WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM A CLAIM TO EMPLOYMENT IN A CIVIL SERVICE JOB IF THEY MEET THE CRITERIA AND STANDARDS ESTABLISHED FOR A SPECIFIC CIVIL SERVICE CAREER. THE FEDERAL, LAND (STATE) AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE REQUIRED UNDER THE LAW TO MAKE POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF SUCH SOLDIERS (OR VETERANS) AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR SERVICE COMMITMENTS OF 12 TO 15 YEARS.

4. THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES (BUNDESWEHR) OPERATE A COMPREHENSIVE VOCATIONAL TRAINING UPGRADING PROGRAM FOR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BONN 15890 01 OF 02 261737Z

ITS VOLUNTEERS AS LISTED UNDER 1B. IT IS DESIGNED TO MAKE SOLDIERS FIT FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR SERVICE COMMITMENT EXPERIENCE HAS

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PAGE 01 BONN 15890 02 OF 02 261741Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15890

SHOWN, HOWEVER, THAT ONLY A MINOR PERCENTAGE OF THOSE ELIGIBLE TO PREFERENCE IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT MAKE USE OF THEIR CLAIM TO A 'VOUCHER OF INTEGRATION" (EINGLIEDERUNGSSCHEIN). THE MAJORITY OF ALL VOLUNTARY SOLDIERS (SAZ) AFTER COMPLETION OF SERVICE PREFER JOBS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY WHICH OFFER HIGHER WAGES AND MORE FAVORABLE BENEFITS THAN THE CIVIL SERVICE JOBS AVAILABLE UNDER THE "PREFERENCE PROGRAM". IT HAS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE SOLDIERS INVOLVED WILL UNDERGO COMPREHENSIVE VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING DURING THEIR MILITARY SERVICE PROGRAMS, TAKE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BONN 15890 02 OF 02 261741Z

NECESSARY EXAMINATIONS AND ON THE BASIS OF THEIR HIGH QUALIFICATION STANDARDS GENERALLY HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WELL-PAID JOBS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN SPITE OF THE PRESENT UNFAVORABLE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

5. PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS PERFORM MILITARY SERVICE UNTIL RETIREMENT. THE RETIREMENT AGE DEPENDS UPON RANK OR GRADE. PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS AND VOLUNTEERS IN ANY CASE HAVE A CLAIM TO A LUMP-SUM SEPARATION ALLOWANCE (ABFINDUNG) WHICH DEPENDS UPON GRADE AND LENGTH OF SERVICE AT THE TIME OF RETIREMENT OR COMPLETION OF THEIR SERVICE COMMITMENT.
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